UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

HEALTHSPOT, INC.,

CACE NO. 1.1

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 1:14-CV-00804

:

vs. : OI

OPINION & ORDER

COMPUTERIZED SCREENING, INC.,

:

Defendant.

:

JAMES S. GWIN, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

In this patent case, Plaintiff HealthSpot, Inc. ("HealthSpot") seeks a declaratory judgment that its products do not infringe patent rights held by Defendant Computerized Screening, Inc. ("CSI"). Alternatively, HealthSpot asks for a ruling that CSI's patent claims are invalid. With this opinion, the Court construes terms whose meanings have been disputed by the parties. Because this is a declaratory judgment suit rather than an infringement suit, Defendant CSI owns the patent, not Plaintiff HealthSpot.

I. Background

Both parties sell to the health kiosks market. Health kiosks come in many forms, but generally are machines that allow for medical services, such as blood pressure testing, to be performed at locations other than doctors' offices. The dispute concerns Patent No. 6,692,436, ("436 Patent"), which Defendant CSI received in 2004.¹

¹'436 patent. The '436 Patent initially had fifty-seven claims. In 2011, a reexamination certificate confirmed the patentability of these claims, as well as eight new ones. *Id*.

Gwin, J.

With its patent, Defendant CSI teaches various systems relating to health kiosks. The systems generally contain a "kiosk," "a controller," "local storage," a "user-interactive display," and several other components.^{2/} In many of the claims, the controller must be "capable of communicating with a remote server" and must include various "logic." The '436 patent also includes claims for methods of operating such systems.^{4/}

The parties dispute the meaning of the following terms⁵:

- 1. Controller
- 2. Local Storage
- 3. Kiosk
- 4. Diagnostic Equipment
- 5. Health Services and Information System
- 6. User-Interactive Display
- 7. Health Test Interface
- 8. Local Storage Element Allocated for the User
- 9. Remote Storage Element Allocated for the User
- 10. Logic for Controlling Storage of the User Health Test Result in the Local Storage in a User Local Storage Element Allocated for the User
- 11. Logic for Controlling Storage of the Health Test Result in the Remote Storage in a User Remote Storage Element Allocated for the User
- 12. Logic for Controlling the Health Test Interface to Perform Measurements on a User to Acquire User Health Test Measurement Data
- 13. Logic for Processing the User Health Test Measurement Data to Generate a User Health Test Result
- 14. Logic for Controlling Display of the User Health Test Result and a Health Test Result History via the User-Interactive Display
- 15. Logic, at Least Partly Executable on the Controller and at Least Partly Executable on the Remote Server, Providing Access to Health-Related Information via the Interactive Display^{6/}
- 16. Logic for Receiving from the Remote Server Health-Related Services and Information

²E.g., id. at col. 14, 11. 44-54.

³*Id.* at col. 14, 11. 53-67.

⁴*E.g.*, *id.* at col. 18, 11. 21-41.

⁵See Doc. 39-1.

⁶The parties' claim chart lists this term "Logic, at least partially" *Id.* at 96. The actual claim language, however, is "Logic, at least *partly* . . . " '436 patent, at col. 16, l. 39 (emphasis added).

Gwin, J.

On March 19, 2015, the Court held a *Markman* claim construction hearing. The parties have also filed a joint claim construction and pre-hearing statement, as well as opening and responsive briefs on claim construction. After laying out the legal standards, the Court addresses each disputed term in turn.

II. Legal Standard

The construction of a patent, including terms of art used within its claims, is a question of law.^{9/} When interpreting a disputed claim term, the Court first looks to the intrinsic evidence of record, i.e., the patent itself, specifically, the patent claims, the specification and, if in evidence, the prosecution history.^{10/} The intrinsic evidence gives the most significant guidance regarding the interpretation of disputed claim language.^{11/}

In *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, ^{12/} the Federal Circuit reiterated the standards used to interpret patent claims. Among these, a "'bedrock principle' of patent law [is] that 'the claims of a patent define the invention to which the patentee is entitled the right to exclude." Thus, "the claims are 'of primary importance, in the effort to ascertain precisely what it is that is patented." ^{14/}

The claims, however, should not be read in isolation but "must be read in view of the

⁷See Doc. <u>43</u>.

⁸Docs. <u>32</u>, <u>33</u>, <u>37</u>, <u>38</u>. Defendant CSI also sought and received permission to file supplemental briefing responding to changes in Plaintiff HealthSpot's proposed constructions. Docs. 40, 41.

⁹See Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc., 517 U.S. 370, 383-91 (1996).

¹⁰See <u>Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.</u>, 52 F.3d 967, 979-80 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (en banc), aff'd, 517 U.S. 370 (1996).

¹¹Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc., 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

¹²415 F.3d 1303 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (en banc).

¹³*Id.* at 1312 (quoting *Innova/Pure Water, Inc. v. Safari Water Filtration Sys., Inc.*, 381 F.3d 1111, 1115 (Fed. Cir. 2004)).

¹⁴Phillips, 415 F.3d at 1312 (quoting Merrill v. Yeomans, 94 U.S. 568, 570 (1876).

Gwin, J.

specification, of which they are a part." Thus, after considering the claim language, the Court must

next look to the specifications. The specification is "always highly relevant to the claim

construction analysis" and "is the single best guide to the meaning of a disputed term." ^{17/}

The terms of a claim "are generally given [the] ordinary and customary meaning . . . that the

term[s] would have to a person of ordinary skill in the art in question at the time of the

invention "18/ Courts thus interpret claims through the eyes of a person having ordinary skill in

the art or field of the invention. That person "is deemed to read the words used in the patent

documents with an understanding of their meaning in the field, and to have knowledge of any special

meaning and usage in the field." 19/

The Court may also consider other claims in the patent, including both asserted and

unasserted claims.²⁰ The usage of a term in one claim may shed light on the meaning of the same

term in other claims. The claims "are part of 'a fully integrated written instrument,' consisting

principally of a specification that concludes with the claims. For that reason, claims 'must be read

in view of the specification of which they are a part." 21/ Claim terms should be construed, when

possible, "in a manner that renders the patent internally consistent." 22/

III. Analysis

There are two primary categories of disputed terms. The first are "non-logic" terms. The

¹⁵*Id.* at 1315 (internal citation omitted).

¹⁶Vitronics Corp., 90 F.3d at 1582.

¹⁷Phillips, 415 F.3d at 1315 (internal citation omitted).

¹⁸*Id.* at 1312-13.

¹⁹*Id*. at 1313.

²⁰*Id.* at 1314.

²¹*Id.* at 1315 (quoting *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 978-79).

²²Budde v. Harley-Davidson, Inc., 250 F.3d 1369, 1379-80 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 5 of 29. PageID #: 1788

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

second are terms relating to "logic" for accomplishing certain tasks.

A. The Non-Logic Terms

1. Controller

The parties' dispute over the how to define "controller" has two primary issues. First,

Plaintiff HealthSpot says that "controller" refers to a single controller, while Defendant CSI says

"controller" can mean one or more controllers. Second, Plaintiff HealthSpot says that as used in the

patent, a "controller" must perform the various designated logic functions. Defendant CSI agrees

that a controller not capable of performing this logic would not infringe, but says that this limitation

comes from elsewhere in the claims, not from the definition of "controller" itself. The Court

considers each dispute in turn.

Turning first to the question of whether "controller" is necessarily singular, the Court agrees

with Plaintiff HealthSpot that the "controller" element refers to a singular controller. To begin, the

language of the patent itself refers to "a controller." It is true that the specification says that "[i]n

the claims, unless otherwise indicated, the article 'a' is to refer to 'one or more than one." In

relying upon this generalized specification, Defendant CSI relies upon a thin reed.

Defendant CSI says that by including this language, it has acted as its own lexicographer for

the word "a." But here, the remainder of the intrinsic evidence-especially the prosecution

history—"otherwise indicate[s]," thus taking this use of "a" in connection with "controller" outside

this provision's coverage.

During its patent application prosecution, Defendant CSI argued to the PTO that its invention

did not read on the prior patent issued to Ballantyne. In major part, Defendant CSI distinguished

²³ 436 patent, at col. 14, ll. 41-42.

-5-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 6 of 29. PageID #: 1789

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

Ballantyne because "The Ballentyne [sic] system does not include one controller that executes

methods and procedures for both controlling network communications and processing a health care

measurement." CSI responds that it distinguished Ballantyne by arguing that "[t]he controller in

the system disclosed by Ballantyne et al does not include logic for controlling acquisition of data and

logic for processing the health management data." CSI says its argument relied upon its inclusion

of logic within the controller, not on the number of controllers. 25/

Although CSI's amendments did not change the number of controllers, CSI significantly

relied upon its single controller to distinguish Ballantyne. Ballantyne contains multiple controllers. 26/

And CSI's emphasis on its single controller was deliberate and conspicuous. CSI distinguished

Ballantyne with alternative arguments: 1) Ballantyne was distinguishable because CSI's controller

incorporated controlling logic; and 2) Ballantyne was distinguishable because CSI used a single

controller while Ballantyne disclosed multiple controllers.

CSI's disclosure of a single controller was important to receiving the '436 patent. Otherwise,

there would have been no reason for CSI to reference "one controller" in its arguments to the PTO.

Finally, Defendant CSI attempts to save its preferred construction by pointing to one

embodiment in the specification that refers to multiple "processor[s]." CSI unconvincingly argues

that "processor" is necessarily equivalent to controllers. $\frac{28}{}$ Not persuasive. But even assuming this

²⁴Doc. <u>34-4</u> at 10 (emphasis added).

²⁵See Hr'g Tr. at 5.

²⁶See Patent No. 5,867,821 ("'861 patent"), at col. 5, l. 8 ("communications controller"); id. at col. 10, ll. 46-47 ("a specific memory controller").

²⁷See '436 patent, at col. 8, 11. 14-18.

²⁸Innova/Pure Water, Inc. v. Safari Water Filtration Systems, Inc., 381 F.3d 1111, 1119 (Fed.Cir.2004)

("[W]hen an applicant uses different terms in a claim it is permissible to infer that he intended his choice of different

terms to reflect a differentiation in the meaning of those terms.").

-6-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 7 of 29. PageID #: 1790

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

equivalence, a single embodiment in the specification is insufficient to overcome the argument CSI

made to the PTO that the prior art did not have "one controller" that performed the functions in

question.

The Court finds that the '436 patent discloses a single controller.

The parties next dispute whether "controller" must incorporate underlying logic. Plaintiff

says "controller" should be interpreted to require needed logic. Defendant CSI contends that

"controller" should not require any logic although the controlling logic may be otherwise required

by the '436 patent.

This issue recurs throughout the parties' list of disputed claims. In particular, many of

Plaintiff HealthSpot's proposed definitions include aspects that Defendant CSI does not deny are

patent requirements, but says should not be included in the definitions of the terms themselves.

In this instance, Defendant CSI agrees that only a "controller" that could carry out the "logic"

requirements would infringe, but says that including the logic requirements in the definition of

"controller" would render the claim redundant. 29/

Although close, Plaintiff HealthSpot has the better argument. Most important, the '436

patent supports an interpretation of controller that requires the controller to incorporate logic. Claim

1 of the '436 patent describes:

What is claimed is:

1. A kiosk-based system for accessing health-related services and information,

comprising:

a controller;

* * *

the controller * * * comprising:

²⁹Hr'g Tr. at 15-16.

-7-

Gwin, J.

logic for controlling the health test interface to performing measurements on a user to acquire user health test measurement data;

logic for processing the user health test measurement data to generate a user health test result;

logic for controlling storage of the user health test result in the local storage in a user local storage element allocated for the user; and

logic for controlling storage of the health test result in the remote storage in a user remote storage element allocated for the user. $\frac{30}{}$

The Oxford English Dictionary defines comprise: "to embrace as its contents, matter, or subject.³¹" Merriam Webster describes comprise in a similar way: "to be made up of (something) to include or consist of (something)."³² Claim 1 describes the controller as comprising or including the logic.

In prosecuting the '436 patent, Defendant CSI argued that its invention was different from Ballantyne because: "[t]he *controller in the system disclosed by Ballantyne et al does not include logic* for controlling acquisition of data and logic for processing the health management data." Defendant CSI said that "Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the controller includes at least [the four logic requirements]." In this context, CSI's used the word "includes." The prosecution history supports Plaintiff HealthSpot's argument that the logic functions are themselves part of the term "controller" rather than simply being an additional requirement of the patent.

Ultimately not much appears to be at stake in this dispute regarding whether "controller" requires logic be programmed into the controller. Both parties agree that an invention without a

³⁰'436 patent, at col. 14, 11. 45-67 (emphasis added).

³¹OED Online, Oxford Univ. Press, http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/37893 (last visited Mar. 2015).

³²Merriam-Webster, http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/comprise (last visited Mar. 2015).

³³Doc. 34-4 at 10 (emphasis added).

³⁴Doc. **34-4** at 10.

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 9 of 29. PageID #: 1792

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

controller that performs the various logic function would not infringe. Against that backdrop, the

Court concludes that adopting Plaintiff HealthSpot's position requiring the controller incorporate

logic terms is more consistent with the language of the patent and the prosecution history.

Accordingly, the Court construes the term "controller" to mean "a single processor such as

a CPU, microcontroller, or microprocessor that includes logic for controlling the health test interface;

for processing the user health test measurement data to generate a user health test result; for

controlling storage of the user health test result in local storage; and for controlling storage of the

health test result in remote storage."

2. Local Storage

Plaintiff HealthSpot asks the Court to construe "local storage" to mean "[a] memory located

at the kiosk that stores user information." Defendant CSI responds that the term means "[m]emory

device located at the kiosk." Thus, the difference between the two parties' construction appears

to be whether "local storage" must be used to store "user information."

Defendant CSI's primary argument against including this phrase, however, goes more to the

length of time such information is stored, not whether it is stored at all. Both parties point to a

portion of the specification that says "[t]ypically, an individual health information kiosk includes a

processor or controller with a storage or memory that maintains a local archive of user information

that stores a relatively small number of relatively recent test results, measurements, and possibly

³⁵Defendant CSI's summarized its position on this dispute at the *Markman* hearing. *See* Hr'g Tr. at 16. ("The claim itself requires that the controller contain that logic. So it would be duplicative and redundant to have the controller require that logic and then have the claim require that logic. It is just already in the claim.").

³⁶Doc. **39-1** at 8.

 37 *Id*.

-9-

Gwin, J.

other information."38/

Defendant CSI additionally focuses on language in the next paragraph of the specification that says "[i]n one example, the local health information kiosk stores information from many users and all information that is generated on the health information kiosk is automatically loaded, for example on a daily basis, to the central health information server." But even this language indicates that the local storage stores health test results for a period for up to a day. And a dependent claim adds an element of "logic . . . that automatically transfers data in the local storage to the remote storage," suggesting that such a transfer is not a requirement of the corresponding independent claim. $\frac{40}{2}$ Finally, another portion of the specification envisions the local storage preserving the ten most recent measurements, apparently regardless of the time period between tests. 41/ The Court thus finds Defendant CSI's arguments against construing "local storage" to include storing user health information unavailing.

Relatedly, Defendant CSI argues that there is no need to treat a description of what is being stored as part of the definition of "local storage" itself. The Court does not agree. The word "storage" ordinarily includes reference to some particular piece of information that can later be retrieved. And both the claims and specification make clear that what is being stored is, at least in part, "user information."

Accordingly, the Court construes the term "local storage" to mean "a memory device located

³⁸ ⁴³⁶ patent, at col. 4, ll. 1-5 (numbers referencing figures omitted).

³⁹Id. at col. 4, 1l. 23-28 (numbers referencing figures omitted).

⁴⁰E.g., Id. at col. 15, Il. 38-39; see also id. at col. 19, Il. 46-48 ("The method of claim 37, further comprising: automatically transferring data in the local storage to the remote storage.").

⁴¹*Id.* at col. 13, 11, 29-30.

⁴²See, e.g., OED Online, Oxford Univ. Press, http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/190925 (listing a definition for "computing" of "[t]he placing or keeping of data and instructions in a device from which they can be retrieved as needed") (last visited Mar. 2015).

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 11 of 29. PageID #: 1794

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

at the kiosk that stores user information."

3. Kiosk

Plaintiff Health Spot suggests that a kiosk is "[a]n interactive display coupled to the controller

which provides access to health services and information." Defendant CSI says that kiosk should

be interpreted as "[a] free-standing machine that houses in a common structure a system that

provides information to the public." 44/

The parties' definitions differ in three major ways. First, Defendant CSI believes a kiosk

must be a "free-standing machine," while Plaintiff HealthSpot would define kiosk more generally

as "an interactive display coupled to the controller." Second, CSI would require the kiosk to "house

[its system] in a common structure." And third, while both parties agree that a "kiosk" must provide

information, Plaintiff HealthSpot would require this information be "health services and

information," while Defendant CSI would specify that the information must be provided "to the

public." The Court observes that-likely due to maneuvering for later invalidity

arguments—Defendant CSI's proposed construction is narrower than Plaintiff HealthSpot's.

As to whether a "kiosk" must be a "free-standing machine," the Court agrees with Defendant

CSI that it must be free-standing. The Court concludes that the plain and ordinary meaning of

"kiosk" describes a structure that is free-standing, and that nothing overcomes this ordinarily used

meaning. It is true that the PTO read the term "kiosk" more broadly to include, for example, a hand-

held device. 45/ But Defendant CSI is not bound by comments of the PTO. 46/ and the Court concludes

⁴³Doc. 39-1 at 12.

 $^{44}Id.$

⁴⁵Doc. **34-16** at 29.

⁴⁶3M Innovative Props. Co. v. Avery Dennison Corp., 350 F.3d 1365, 1373 (Fed. Cir. 2003)

("'[P]rosecution history . . . cannot be used to limit the scope of a claim unless the applicant took a position before

(continued...)

-11-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 12 of 29. PageID #: 1795

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

that the PTO's inferred construction was unduly broad.

On the other hand, Defendant CSI's argument that "kiosk" must "house [the system] in a

common structure" is flawed. Several dependant claims specify that the kiosk must house certain

components of the system.^{47/} These claims would be superfluous if the kiosk inherently had to house

all components of the system.

Finally, Plaintiff HealthSpot has the better argument as to what and to whom the "kiosk"

must provide access. The preamble to Claim 1 of the '436 patent states "[a] kiosk-based system for

accessing health-related services and information." This implies that what the "kiosk" allows

access to is indeed "health services and information." And although specification language does

suggest placement in public places such as pharmacies, 49/2 nothing in the claims suggests that a kiosk

would not be a kiosk if it were located in a home or other location not accessible to the public.

Accordingly, the Court construes "kiosk" to mean "a free standing machine that provides

access to health services and information."

4. Diagnostic Equipment/Health Test Interface

Because Defendant CSI argues that "diagnostic equipment" should be interpreted to mean

the same thing as "health test interface," the Court considers these two terms together.

Defendant CSI says that "diagnostic equipment" and "health test interface" should have the

same meaning because they are used interchangeably in the claims and specification. Plaintiff

⁴⁶(...continued)

the PTO." (quoting Schwing GmbH v. Putzmeister Aktiengesellschaft, 305 F.3d 1318, 1324-25 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (alteration and omission in original))).

⁴⁷ 436 patent, at col. 15, ll. 61-65; id. at col. 17, ll. 41-44; id. at col. 19, ll. 35-39; id. at col. 20, ll. 19-24,

46-50.

⁴⁸*Id.* at col. 14, 11. 44-45.

⁴⁹*E.g.*, *id.* at col. 2, ll. 12-22.

-12-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 13 of 29. PageID #: 1796

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

HealthSpot disagrees and says that "diagnostic equipment" should simply be given its plain and

ordinary meaning. At the *Markman* hearing, Plaintiff HealthSpot clarified that its primary objection

to treating the two terms as interchangeable is that HealthSpot believes that diagnostic equipment

must play a role in diagnosing medical conditions rather than merely providing measurements. For

example, Plaintiff HealthSpot does not believe that a blood pressure cuff qualifies as "diagnostic

equipment" because it only measures blood pressure, without, for example, diagnosing a user as

having high blood pressure. $\frac{50}{}$

In support of this position, Plaintiff HealthSpot points to the prosecution history that it says

distinguishes "diagnostic equipment" from a "health test interface." Specifically, in attempting to

demonstrate that Defendant CSI's invention was conceived before a prior art reference, CSI told the

PTO:

There are a myriad of documents describing the development of the blood pressure cuff assembly and the weight scale, which enable the

kiosks to collect health metrics of a user. Thus, evidence supporting the conception of the health test interface is clear. Likewise, the same

testing device has dual functionality as it can be used as diagnostic

equipment to assess the user's health condition by comparing the collected metrics with the user's historical data and standard data of

the population. $\frac{51}{}$

HealthSpot says, and the Court agrees, that this passage provides some support for treating

the "health test interface" and "diagnostic equipment" as distinct terms where the "health test

interface" obtains measurements and the "diagnostic equipment" transforms the measurements

together with history and outside information into diagnoses.

The Court concludes, however, that other factors outweigh this prosecution history. First,

⁵⁰Hr'g Tr. at 33.

⁵¹Doc. 34-22 at 10.

-13-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 14 of 29. PageID #: 1797

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

the plain and ordinary meaning of diagnostic equipment would include devices such as blood

pressure cuffs that measure health data. As noted above, Plaintiff HealthSpot's proposed

construction would exclude such equipment. And second, some claims in the patent expressly

envision "diagnostic equipment" carrying out measurements, such as blood pressure or weight,

without seeming to require a "diagnosis." The Court thus concludes that "health test interface"

and "diagnostic equipment" should be construed to be interchangeable.

Given this conclusion that "health test interface" and "diagnostic equipment" should be

construed together, the question of construing the terms still remains. Plaintiff HealthSpot suggests

that "health test interface" means "[a] medical device that takes or performs a measurement of the

user." Defendant CSI responds that it means a "[d]evice that collects health metrics by performing

a test or assisting in the performance of a test on the user."54/ These definitions differ only in minor

ways.

For one thing, Defendant CSI's definition allows the device to "perform[] a test or assist[]

in the performance of a test" while Plaintiff HealthSpot would require the device to "take[] or

perform[] a measurement." HealthSpot's position is more faithful to the intrinsic evidence.

Throughout the patent, the health test interface and the diagnostic equipment serve the purpose of

obtaining measurements. 55/ Defendant CSI has not adequately supported its position that these terms

⁵²436 patent, Ex Parte Reexamination Certificate, at col. 2, ll. 65-67 ("The system of claim 20, wherein the diagnostic equipment is configured to measure at least one of user blood pressure and user heart rate."); id. at col. 3, Il. 1-3 ("The system of claim 20, wherein the diagnostic equipment is configured to measure user body weight."). Prior to reexamination, the language "configured to measure" in these claims read instead as "capable of measuring." '436 patent, at col. 17, ll. 9-13.

⁵³Doc. **39-1** at 48.

 ^{54}Id

⁵⁵E.g., '436 patent, at col. 16, ll. 29-31 ("logic for controlling the health test interface to perform measurements on a user to acquire user health test measurement data"); id. at col. 16, ll. 60-62 ("diagnostic test data (continued...)

-14-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 15 of 29. PageID #: 1798

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

include devices that merely "assist[] in the performance of a test."

The parties' other dispute is somewhat opaque, but centers on what measurements count. In different ways, both limit the measurements to those that in some way relate to health. Defendant CSI specifies a "device" and limits with the phrase "health metrics," while Plaintiff HealthSpot

limits by specifying a "medical device that takes or performs a measurement of the user."

At the *Markman* hearing, Plaintiff HealthSpot explained that it believed that its proposed construction would properly exclude measurements of weight. Assuming this characterization of the difference between the proposed constructions is correct, the Court find Defendant CSI's proposal better supported. In particular, claim 24 recites "[t]he system of claim 20, wherein the diagnostic equipment is configured to measure user body weight." The Court further notes that Defendant agreed at the *Markman* hearing that "health measurements" would mean the same as

Thus, combining the elements of each of the parties' proposed constructions the Court finds adequately supported, the Court construes the terms "health test interface" and "diagnostic equipment" to mean "a device that obtains health measurements by taking or performing a measurement of the user."

"health metrics." Finding the phrase "health measurements" clearer, the Court adopts it.

5. Health Services and Information System

Defendant CSI suggests that the term "health services and information system" should be

⁵⁵(...continued) acquired via the diagnostic equipment"). The specification provides further support. *See id.* at col. 6, 1, 17 ("The

acquired via the diagnostic equipment"). The specification provides further support. See id. at col. 6, l. 17 ("The illustrative test interface is a blood pressure cuff..." (number referencing figure omitted)).

⁵⁶'436 patent, Ex Parte Reexamination Certificate, at col. 3, Il. 1-3 ("The system of claim 20, wherein the diagnostic equipment is configured to measure user body weight."). Prior to reexamination, the language "configured to measure" in this claim read instead as "capable of measuring." '436 patent, at col. 17, Il. 9-13.

⁵⁷Hr'g Tr. at 57.

Gwin, J.

construed to mean "[a] system that provides access to a health test interface and one item or more

of extended health information." Plaintiff HealthSpot counters that the term is indefinite. If the

term is not found to be indefinite, Plaintiff HealthSpot argues that it should be interpreted to be either

"[a] kiosk that obtains user health test measurement data and generates a user health test result and

may also allow access to non-user specific health information" or "[a] database containing non-user

specific medical information." 59/

Although Plaintiff HealthSpot's position that the "health services and information system"

is necessarily tied to the kiosk has some support,"60/2 the Court concludes that Defendant CSI's

proposed construction is superior. In particular, Plaintiff Health Spot's first construction would make

the claim language improperly redundant. For example, claim 1 discloses, among other elements,

"a kiosk . . . providing access to a health services and information system." Using Plaintiff

HealthSpot's first definition would make this claim language mean "a kiosk . . . providing access

to a kiosk " Thus, despite the specification language tying the "health services and information

system" to the "kiosk," the Court concludes that the connection comes not from the definition of

kiosk itself, but from other claim language.

Plaintiff Health Spot contends that the '436 patent uses the terms "kiosk" and "health services

and information system" interchangeably. The Court does not agree. It appears from both the claim

⁵⁸Doc. **39-1** at 21.

⁵⁹Id.

⁶⁰See, e.g., '436 patent, at col. 9, ll. 45-48 ("The health services and information system determines a health risk appraisal and presents the appraisal results on the display screen." (number referencing figure omitted)); id. at col. 8, ll. 1-9 ("The health services and information system controls the test interface to perform a blood pressure measurement." (numbers referencing figures omitted)).

⁶¹*Id.* at col. 14, 11, 48-51.

-16-

Gwin, J.

language, and the figures in the specification that the "kiosk" provides access to the "health

services and information system" but is not the same thing.

Plaintiff HealthSpot's second proposed definition fares little better. This construction

primarily differs from Defendant CSI's by omitting the requirement in Defendant CSI's definition

that the "health services and information system" gives access to the "health test interface" in

addition to information that the parties alternately describe as "extended health information" or "non-

user specific medical information."

The Court concludes that Defendant CSI's inclusion of the "health test interface" language

in the construction of "health services and information system" is well-supported by the claims and

specification. For example, claim 37 discloses a method for, among other things, "providing access

to a health services and information system via the user-interactive display."^{64/} Nothing in the claims

suggest that this system is limited to non-user specific health information to the exclusion of, for

example, a personalized diagnosis.

Indeed, the specification suggests the opposite. For example, one portion of the specification

states that "[t]he health services and information system . . . determines a health risk appraisal and

presents the appraisal results on the display screen." The "health services and information system,"

therefore, provides access not only to non-user specific information, but also user-specific

information, such as an individualized health risk appraisal.

Although the Court generally agrees with Defendant CSI's construction of "health services

⁶²See, e.g., id. at col. 14, l. 45 ("a kiosk-based system"); id. at col. 14, ll. 49-52 ("a kiosk... providing access to a health services and information system").

⁶³See, e.g., id. at fig. 2.

⁶⁴*Id.* at col. 18, 11. 40-41.

⁶⁵*Id.* at col. 9, 11, 45-46.

-17-

Gwin, J.

and information system," the Court modifies this construction in one regard. In particular, the Court

concludes that "extended health information" is ambiguous and instead adopts Plaintiff Health Spot's

phrasing "non-user specific health information." To the degree "extended health information" was

intended to mean "non-user specific health information," the Court finds the latter phrasing clearer.

And to the degree Defendant CSI intended "extended health information" to have a different

meaning, the Court concludes that the alternative meaning would lack sufficient support.

Accordingly, the Court construes the term "health services and information system" to be "a

system that provides access to a health test interface and one or more items of non-user specific

information."

6. User-Interactive Display

The parties' dispute over this term centers on whether a "user-interactive display" is

necessarily a touchscreen or not. 66/ Defendant CSI seems to argue that the only way a user can

interact with a display is through a touchscreen. According to CSI, other methods, such as a

keyboard, mouse, or joystick, do not result in users interacting in with the display itself. In contrast

to the typical case where the patent owner argues for the broadest possible construction, the Court

again notes that for this term, Defendant CSI's construction of its patent is narrower than that of

Plaintiff HealthSpot. This juxtaposition likely flows from some invalidity argument that prompts

the patent owner to argue for a narrower construction.

A broad array of factors counsels against accepting Defendant CSI's interpretation. For one

thing, although the specification does not disclose any embodiments not involving touchscreens, the

touchscreens appear in preferred embodiments or as a form that the "user-interactive display"

⁶⁶See Doc. 39-1 at 34.

-18-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 19 of 29. PageID #: 1802

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

"generally" takes, not a form that it must take. 67/

More importantly, the '436 patent contains dependent claims "wherein the user-interactive display comprises a touch-screen display." Plaintiff HealthSpot asserts that under the principle of claim differentiation, these dependent claims with only the touch-screen display difference mean that "user-interactive display" in the independent claims must be broader. Defendant CSI disputes the applicability of claim differentiation because the dependent claim was added in reexamination. ^{69/} CSI also correctly notes that claim differentiation is merely one tool to be used in construing claims.

But in this case, the tool of claim differentiation—or at the very least the principle underlying it that terms should not be construed in a fashion that renders claims superfluous—still counsels in favor of reading "user-interactive display" more broadly. Moreover, nothing about the term "user-interactive display" requires the interaction occur through touching the screen. Accordingly, the Court concludes that a "user-interactive display" need not consist of a touch-screen display.

The Court does conclude, however, that Plaintiff HealthSpot's proposed definition is somewhat too broad. In particular, it would appear to allow for any display to qualify, even one the user could not interact with in any way–for example, a display that functions as no more than an advertising billboard.

Combining these two conclusions, the Court construes "user-interactive display" to mean "a visual display the user can control through a touch-screen or other method of providing input."

7. Health Test Interface

⁶⁷See, e.g., <u>'436 patent</u>, at col. 7, ll. 33-35 ("The graphical user interface of the health services and information system is *generally* a touch screen display" (emphasis added)).

⁶⁸ 436 patent, Ex Parte Reexamination Certificate, at col. 6, ll. 15-24.

⁶⁹*Total Containment, Inc. v. Environ Prods., Inc.*, 106 F.3d 427 (table), 1997 WL 16032 (Fed. Cir. 1997). The Court notes, however, that this case was unpublished, and therefore is not controlling under Federal Circuit rules. Fed. Cir. R. 32.1.

Gwin, J.

As noted above, the Court construes the terms "health test interface" and "diagnostic

equipment" to mean "a device that obtains health measurements by taking or performing a

measurement of the user."

8. Local Storage Element Allocated for the User

With this and the following term, the Court considers how user data is stored on the kiosk

and stored on central servers.

Plaintiff HealthSpot suggests this term should be construed to mean a "[s]pecific portion of

the memory that is connected to the single kiosk processor allocated to a specific identified user for

local archiving of a user health test result." Defendant CSI responds that it should mean "[p]art

of a memory device located at the kiosk where user data is associated with a user identifier."

As an initial matter, the Court notes that some of the differences in the parties' proposed

construction of this term echo those the Court has addressed when construing the term "local

storage." The Court has construed "local storage" to mean "a memory device located at the kiosk

that stores user information." The question then becomes what effect adding "element allocated for

the user" to the end of "local storage" has.

The parties' proposed constructions appear to differ primarily in how long they require

archiving and allocation to a specific user to remain in the local storage. In other words, Defendant

CSI does not dispute that user health information is temporarily stored in the local storage element

allocated for the user, or that this element is allocated to a particular user when that storage occurs.

Instead, CSI says that this storage is extremely short term and that both the archiving on the local

⁷⁰Doc. **39-1** at 53.

 ^{71}Id .

-20-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 21 of 29. PageID #: 1804

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

storage element and the allocation of the local storage element disappear when the data is transferred

to the remote server. $\frac{72}{}$

Neither allocation nor archiving are inherently permanent operations. Defendant CSI says

that HIPAA regulations would prevent long-term local storage of user information. And CSI further

notes that compliance with HIPAA was mentioned during the reexamination proceedings. But

short-term storage can be consistent with archiving or allocation. Moreover, while Defendant CSI

points to portions of the claims and specification indicating that user information is uploaded to

remote storage, CSI does not identify any claim or specification language that says the data is also

removed from local storage. 44 Finally, as noted above, some dependant claims suggest that data

need not be automatically transferred out of local memory and into remote memory in all

embodiments of the invention. 75/

Accordingly, the Court construes "local storage element allocated for the user" to mean "a

memory device located at the kiosk that is allocated to a specific identified user and that stores user

information."

9. Remote Storage Element Allocated for the User

Plaintiff HealthSpot suggests that this term should be construed to mean "[a]n individual

personal health site hosted by a remote health server that contains the health test result specific to

an individual identified user." 76/ Defendant CSI responds with a proposed construction of "[p]art of

⁷²Hr'g Tr. at 63-64.

⁷³Doc. 32-5 at 4-5.

⁷⁴See Hr'g Tr. at 64-65.

⁷⁵E.g., '436 patent, at col. 15, 11. 38-39; see also id. at col. 19, 11. 46-48 ("The method of claim 37, further

comprising: automatically transferring data in the local storage to the remote storage.").

⁷⁶Doc. **39-1** at 58.

-21-

Gwin, J.

a memory device located at a remote server where a user's data is stored by associating it with a user

identifier."

The primary point of disagreement as to this term appears to be whether the phrase

"individual personal health site" should be included in the definition. The Court concludes that the

prosecution history resolves this question in favor of Plaintiff Health Spot. In particular, a declaration

Defendant CSI submitted during reexamination proceedings stated "[i]n light of the disclosure of

the '436 patent, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the 'remote storage element

allocated for the user' recited in [various claims] of the '436 patent as corresponding to the disclosed

'individual personal health site' disclosed in the '436 patent."⁷⁸

Defendant CSI objects to Plaintiff HealthSpot's proposed construction on two grounds. First,

CSI says that HealthSpot's construction differs too much from the construction of "local storage"

element allocated for the user." This argument fails. Although it is true that Defendant CSI's

proposed construction more closely mirrors that given the similar claim term "local storage element

allocated for the user," the prosecution history mentioned above justifies the difference.

Second, Defendant CSI says that even accepting that an individual personal health site is

involved, there is no justification for adding the additional language suggested by Plaintiff

HealthSpot. This argument fails for similar reasons to the analysis interpreting "local storage" as

storing user information. With the limited exceptions of (1) changing "health test result" to "health

information" for consistency with the Court's construction of "local storage" and "local storage

 $^{77}Id.$

⁷⁸Doc. 34-21 at 40; see also Doc. 32-5 at 5 ("Specifically, the '436 patent teaches that individual users have an individual personal health storage site allocated to them on a remote health information server. I understand that CSI referred to this as a personal health record. I understand this term to be recited in the claims as "a remote user

storage element." (internal citation omitted)).

-22-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 23 of 29. PageID #: 1806

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

element allocated for the user," and (2) using Defendant CSI's suggestion of a "remote server" rather

than Plaintiff HealthSpot's of a "remote health server," the Court therefore adopts Plaintiff

HealthSpot's construction.

Accordingly, the Court construes "remote storage element allocated for the user" to mean "an

individual personal health site hosted by a remote server that contains health information specific

to an individual identified user."

B. The Logic Terms

Disputed claim terms 10-16 each take the form of logic for accomplishing a particular task.

The parties dispute (1) whether these terms should be construed as means plus function terms; (2)

the proper construction of "logic"; and (3) for some of the terms, the proper construction of the

remaining portion of the terms. The Court resolves the first question for all seven claims together,

the interpretation of "logic" for the remaining claims except claim 15 together, and the third question

for each claim in turn. 79/

First, the Court agrees with Plaintiff HealthSpot that these terms should be construed as

means plus function terms. Defendant CSI is correct that because neither "means" nor "step"

appears in these terms, there is a strong presumption that they are not means plus function terms. $\frac{80}{}$

But this presumption, although it is a strong one, can be overcome where the claims fail to "provide

'sufficiently definite structure,' to a person of ordinary skill in the art, for performing the recited

⁷⁹The Court addresses "logic" in claim 15 with the remainder of claim 15 rather than with the remainder of the "logic" terms because the parties' dispute over "logic" in claim 15 differs from the corresponding dispute for the other six logic claims.

⁸⁰Phillips v. AWH Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 1311 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (en banc) (citing Personalized Media Commc'ns, LLC v. Int'l Trade Comm'n, 161 F.3d 696, 703-04 (Fed. Cir. 1998)).

-23-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 24 of 29. PageID #: 1807

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

function."81/

Defendant CSI points out that each of the logic terms are listed in the patent as one element

that the controller must comprise. CSI says that the controller provides the structure necessary to

prevent these terms from being means plus function. The Court does not agree. As the Federal

Circuit has noted, "to one of skill in the art, the 'structure' of computer software is understood

through, for example, an outline of an algorithm, a flowchart, or a specific set of instructions or

rules."82/ Thus, reciting the physical structure of a computer—or, in this case, a controller—is typically

neither necessary nor sufficient to avoid means plus function claiming. 83/

In this case, the patent gives no disclosure of the algorithm or type of program to be used to

carry out the basic logic functions. Indeed, one part of the specification reads "the processor

executes a logic (not shown)." Accordingly, the Court concludes that these terms are stated in

means plus function format.

Having concluded that the logic terms are stated in means plus function format, the Court

now turns to construing the means part of the disputed terms, i.e., "logic." Each party proposes a

consistent construction of this portion of the disputed terms across all logic terms except term 15.

Plaintiff HealthSpot says that "[s]oftware, firmware, control logic, or other executable forms that

are executed by the single kiosk processor" is the best construction, while Defendant CSI proposes

a construction of "[s]oftware, firmware, control logic, or any other computer-executable code." The

proposed constructions thus differ in two ways. First, there is a minor difference in the lists that

⁸¹Apple, Inc. v. Motorola, Inc., 757 F.3d 1286, 1303 (Fed. Cir. 2014).

82 Id. at 1298 (internal citation omitted).

83 Id. at 1298-99.

⁸⁴ 436 patent, at col. 4, 11. 5-6 (number referencing figure omitted).

-24-

Gwin, J.

 $begin\,each\,definition.\,\,And\,second, Plaintiff\,HealthSpot\,would\,require\,that\,the\,``controller'' performs$

the "logic" in the definition of "logic," while Defendant CSI would not.

As to the first difference, the Court does not detect a meaningful difference between Plaintiff

HealthSpot's suggestion of "other executable forms" and Defendant CSI's suggestion of "any other

computer-executable code." Noting that HealthSpot's formulation, unlike CSI's, is drawn from the

specification, 85/2 the Court adopts HealthSpot's formulation.

Second, Plaintiff HealthSpot's suggestion that the definition of "logic" includes a reference

to the controller is well taken. The Court has interpreted "controller" as requiring incorporated logic.

Defendant CSI argued to the PTO that its controller incorporated logic when CSI overcame

the PTO's finding that CSI's claims were anticipated. Moreover, the patent specifies that the

"controller . . . compris[es]" the logic terms. 86/ Including controller in the definition of the logic

terms would do the same. Defendant CSI obtained the '436 patent by arguing that the logic was

inherent in the controller.

Accordingly, the Court construes the "logic" portion of the logic terms to mean "software,

firmware, control logic, or other executable forms incorporated in the controller."

10. Logic for Controlling Storage of the User Health Test Result in the Local Storage in a User

Local Storage Element Allocated for the User

The parties' respective proposed constructions of the function part of this term mirror their

proposed constructions of the term "user local storage element allocated for the user." For similar

reasons to those given in construing that term, the Court concludes that the function portion of this

⁸⁵*Id.* at col. 4, 11. 8-9.

⁸⁶*E.g.*, *id.* at col. 14, ll. 55-57.

-25-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 26 of 29. PageID #: 1809

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

term means "for controlling storage of the user health test result in a memory device located at the

kiosk that is allocated to a specific identified user and that stores user information."

Accordingly, the Court construes this term as a whole to mean "software, firmware, control

logic, or other executable forms incorporated in the controller for controlling storage of the user

health test result in a memory device located at the kiosk that is allocated to a specific identified user

and that stores user information."

11. Logic for Controlling Storage of the Health Test Result in the Remote Storage in a User

Remote Storage Element Allocated for the User

The parties' respective proposed constructions of the function part of this term mirror their

proposed constructions of the term "user remote storage element allocated for the user." For similar

reasons to those given in construing that term, the Court concludes that the function portion of this

term means "for controlling storage of the user health test result on an individual personal health site

hosted by a remote server that contains health information specific to an individual identified user."

Accordingly, the Court construes this terms as a whole to mean "software, firmware, control

logic, or other executable forms incorporated in the controller for controlling storage of the user

health test result on an individual personal health site hosted by a remote server that contains health

information specific to an individual identified user."87/

12. Logic for Controlling the Health Test Interface to Perform Measurements on a User to

⁸⁷Plaintiff HealthSpot's proposed construction also includes several additional steps that appear to attempt to clarify the meaning of "user health test result." In particular, instead of simply reciting that the logic must allow a user health test result to be stored, HealthSpot says that the definition of this term should also specify that the logic directs that the "single kiosk processor uploads a result generated by the single kiosk processor from data and measurements received from a medical device that has taken or performed a measurement of the user." Doc. 39-1 at

71. The Court does not agree. These additional steps unnecessarily complicate the plain meaning of "user health

test result."

-26-

Gwin, J.

Acquire User Health Test Measurement Data

For this term, with the minor exceptions discussed in the footnote below, the parties dispute

only the means portion of the definition. Combining the means construction adopted above with the

effectively undisputed function construction, the Court construes this term to mean "software,

firmware, control logic, or other executable forms incorporated in the controller for controlling the

health test interface to perform measurements on a user to acquire user health test measurement

data." 88/

13. Logic for Processing the User Health Test Measurement Data to Generate a User Health

Test Result

For this term, with only one minor exception, the parties agree on the construction that should

be given to the function portion of the term. Combining the means construction adopted above with

the effectively undisputed function construction, the Court construes this term to mean "software,

firmware, control logic, or other executable forms incorporated in the controller for processing the

user health test measurement data to generate a user health test result." 89/

14. Logic for Controlling Display of the User Health Test Result and a Health Test Result

History via the User-Interactive Display

Here, too, with the exception of a minor difference in phrasing, the parties dispute only the

means portion of this construction. Combining the means construction adopted above with the

88The Court notes and accepts the parties' agreement that claim 1 of the patent's recitation of "performing" rather than "perform" is a typographical error that should be ignored. Doc. 38 at 23 n.8. The Court further notes that Defendant CSI's proposed construction would substitute "to perform a test on the user" for "to perform measurements on a user." Doc. 39-1 at 79. Neither party has explained if or how this difference is important, and the Court resolves this minor difference in favor of Plaintiff HealthSpot's construction, which matches the actual claim language.

⁸⁹The only difference in the parties' constructions of the function portion of this term is that Defendant CSI would omit the "the" that appears immediately before "health test measurement data." The Court resolves this minor dispute in Plaintiff HealthSpot's favor because HealthSpot's construction matches the claim language.

-27-

Gwin, J.

effectively undisputed function construction, the Court construes this term to mean "software,

firmware, control logic, or other executable forms incorporated in the controller for controlling

display of the user health test result and a health test result history via the user-interactive display." 90/

15. Logic, at Least Partly Executable on the Controller and at Least Partly Executable on the

Remote Server, Providing Access to Health-Related Information via the Interactive Display^{91/}

Plaintiff HealthSpot says that this term should be construed as "[s]oftware, firmware, control

logic, or other executable forms that are executed by the single kiosk processor and a remote server

providing access to health-related information via the interactive display." Defendant CSI

responds with a proposed construction of "[s] oftware, firmware, control logic or any other computer-

executable code executed in part on the controller and in part on a remote server to provide access

to health-related information via the user-interactive display." 93/

To the degree the proposed constructions differ in meaning from each other, the Court finds

that hewing closer to the claim language provides the best construction. That means adopting some

of Plaintiff HealthSpot's construction, such as "interactive display" rather than "user-interactive

display," and some of Defendant CSI's construction, such as including "in part."

Accordingly, the Court construes this term to mean "software, firmware, control logic, or

other executable forms, executed in part on the controller and in part on the remote server, providing

access to health-related information via the interactive display."

⁹⁰Defendant CSI would say "a history of health test results" rather than "a health test result history." Doc. 39-1 at 89. Absent argument to the contrary, the Court adopts the phrasing used in the patent and proposed by

Plaintiff HealthSpot.

⁹¹The parties' claim chart lists this term "Logic, at least partially" *Id.* at 96. The actual claim language, however, is "Logic, at least *partly* . . . " '436 patent, at col. 16, l. 39 (emphasis added).

⁹²Doc. 39-1 at 96.

 $^{93}Id.$

-28-

Case: 1:14-cv-00804-DCN Doc #: 47 Filed: 04/02/15 29 of 29. PageID #: 1812

Case No. 1:14-CV-00804

Gwin, J.

16. Logic for Receiving from the Remote Server Health-Related Services and Information

In addition to their usual disagreement over the means portion of this term, the parties slightly

disagree as to the function portion. In particular, Defendant CSI suggests replacing "the remote

server" with "a different computer." Defendant CSI has provided no argument, either in its

briefing or at the Markman hearing, in support of this suggestion. The Court thus adopts Plaintiff

HealthSpot's approach, which mirrors the actual claim language.

Accordingly, the Court construes this term to mean "software, firmware, control logic, or

other executable forms incorporated in the controller for receiving from the remote server health-

related services and information."

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Court construes the disputed claim terms in the manner

described above.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 2, 2015

James S. Gwin

JAMES S. GWIN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

⁹⁴*Id*. at 100.

-29-